

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

BALU, Palani *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/737,245

Filing Date: December 15, 2003

For: *Novel Peptide Dimers as Agonists of the Erythropoietin (EPO) Receptor, and Associated Methods of Synthesis and Use*

Examiner: KAM, Chih Min

Art Unit: 1656

Confirmation No.: 5841

Attorney Docket No. 44368-0005 C1

Customer No. 25213

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ON JANUARY 17, 2008**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 for the above identified application, which is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on November 8, 2007 (Paper No./Mail Date 20071107) in connection with the above-identified patent application. Please enter the following amendments and consider the following arguments. This Request and Preliminary Amendment are timely filed by February 8, 2008. Applicants believe no further fees are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge fees which may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1641.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.